

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2327 without my signature.

I am supportive of all practical efforts to protect our most vulnerable workers, such as farm workers, from employers and contractors that violate labor and workplace safety laws. In fact, I have increased funding in each of the last two budgets for labor law enforcement and in 2005 created the Economic and Employment Enforcement Coalition to focus specifically on businesses operating in the underground economy.

However, I am concerned that AB 2327 would have little practical effect in helping farm workers secure unpaid wages. Too often, the wages owed farm workers are owed by unlicensed farm labor contractors. As these individuals have not bothered to register with the state, it is highly unlikely they would bother to place additional information on pay stubs, assuming they issue pay stubs to employees in the first place. As such, I am concerned that the only practical effect of AB 2327 will be to place an unnecessary and burdensome requirement on law-abiding contractors and subject growers to additional liabilities through no fault of their own.

California has numerous laws on the books intended to protect workers from unscrupulous employers. We do not need more laws, but greater enforcement of existing laws, and more cooperation between government, worker advocates, and legitimate employers to ensure those laws are being used to their fullest extent.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger